

**Comments on the impact of proposed new dwellings
(APP/R3325/W/20/3259668 (Land North of Ansford Hill) Castle
Cary, on health service provision by Millbrook Surgery**

Chris Pinner, Practice Manager

The registered patient list size at Millbrook Surgery, Millbrook Gardens, Castle Cary, has seen a gradual increase over the last 20 yrs, but the rate of increase has accelerated year on year, most sharply recently due to the new housing developments either side of Station Road.

In the 2 months to the beginning October 2021, the list size had increased by 8.5% from that of the same 2 months in 2020. During that same period, patient demand rose disproportionately by 26%. The practice had forecast for an increase in population, and staff expansion has been achieved accordingly. With the less predictable increase in demand, the pressure on services continues at a high, though currently manageable level. | *comp...*

We understand the proposed new 200 house development to consist of a mixture of 4, 3 and 2 bedroom houses, allowing for a potential residency of 800 people.

A conservative impact on Millbrook surgery may result in 50% registration of new residents (400 additional patients), with maximum impact of an additional 800 patients if registration were to be 100%.

In this situation, in order to maintain the current quality of care and level of accessibility to services at Millbrook, further recruitment will be necessary. This would include both an additional doctor and significant increase in other staff, both clinical and clerical. In the current climate of staff shortages in all sectors of the NHS, this will be very challenging. An inability to maintain a safe staff to patient ratio will inevitably see the current high standard of care compromised.

Such an increase in population will also realise difficulties with accommodation in the surgery. Due to restrictions in the size of the present building, the practice already operates a "hot desking" model and further flexibility has been built in using innovative solutions that allow remote working when appropriate. Clearly however, there are limitations to this and a need for physical expansion will be inevitable.

Consideration of any proposed new dwellings in this area, if the need can clearly be demonstrated, must be supported by plans to develop all of the local infrastructure, in parallel, not in retrospect, in order to maintain the equilibrium that only just still exists in this small, historic, market town.

- 10 - Pat Peppi
- 11 - Shelley Lane
- 12 - Punch
- 13 - web position
- 14 - Helen Cleveland